

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey



ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey is a community-based organization providing counseling and leadership development programs to Puerto Ricans/Latinos and other minority youth in urban centers throughout the state.

Since its foundation in 1968, ASPIRA has helped over 30,000 low-income minority youths complete high school and go on to post-secondary education.

Participating in the ASPIRA Process gave these students the encouragement and mentoring that inspired them to strive toward the highest possible levels of education, effective leadership, and commitment to their community.



Leadership Development

ASPIRA has identified the development of a better educated and more community conscious Latino youth as its primary mission. Leadership development at ASPIRA begins at the high school level through a network of democratically organized, student operated clubs.

The ASPIRA clubs promote the ideals of community service and citizenship, and provide students with an organizational structure from which they can learn effective problem-solving methods. Clubs plan visits to local colleges; organize field trips; conduct bake sales and dances to raise money; and hold workshops on topics of concern such as pregnancy prevention and alcoholism.



College and Career Awareness

ASPIRA counselors make students aware of the opportunities that are available to them in higher education through counseling, workshops and seminars or conferences. Every year hundreds of students, who otherwise would not have continued their education, are placed in post-secondary institutions.

Early Intervention

Despite an overall dropout rate of sixty percent among teenage Hispanics in New Jersey, and fifty percent nationally, ASPIRA has been very successful in preventing school dropout.

ASPIRA Early Intervention begins at the middle school level. Counselors prevent students from dropping out of school by encouraging them to seek tutoring and attend pre-college programs, and keeping them involved in ASPIRA activities. Students are motivated to seriously think about their future, and in the process complete junior high school.

Cultural Awareness

ASPIRA believes that young people cannot succeed unless they are aware and proud of their cultural heritage. To accomplish this, ASPIRA sponsors many activities during the year to expose

students to their own culture, be it Hispanic or African American. There are field trips to museums and theaters, seminars on history and culture, and classes on folkloric dances.



The Future of Our Community Is in Our Hands Today.

You, too, can join ASPIRA in helping thousands of young people break the cycle of poverty, inadequate education and unemployment. By supporting our programs you will be investing in our youth's future!

ASPIRA, Inc. OF NEW JERSEY



Yes! I/We want to join ASPIRA in helping thousands of young people remain in school and pursue higher education.

Name _____

Street _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is a contribution in support of your programs.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| () SUPPORTING \$50 | () SUSTAINING \$100 |
| () FAMILY \$35 | () CONTRIBUTOR \$250 |
| () BASIC \$25 | () PATRON \$500 |
| () OTHER \$ _____ | |

PLEASE CHARGE MY DONATION TO: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card No. _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please make checks payable to:

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey, 390 Broad St., Newark, NJ 07104

For more information call (201) 484-7554.



ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey

The "pitirre" is the symbol of ASPIRA. A small, fragile tropical bird found in Puerto Rico, the "pitirre" is known for its agility and rapid flight and for its ability to outwit, tire and defeat much larger birds. ASPIRA believes that the "pitirre" is a fitting symbol for young Latinos. Aspirantes gain the confidence of the "pitirre" by acquiring knowledge and developing leadership skills. They then can face and overcome seemingly overwhelming odds to become productive adults, returning to their communities the benefits of their skills and leadership.



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390 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07104
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"ASPIRA has helped me believe in myself and believe that I, too, can accomplish what I want - I have been inspired, and I will achieve."

Carmelo Colon, ASPIRA Alumnaus
Mental Health Clinician, UMDNJ

"ASPIRA... was the first Newark organization that recognized the role of Puerto Rican youth in the community, encouraging us to aim for the highest college placement, to do the very best, to truly become the backbone of support of our high school life. ASPIRA really pushed. Even when we were not ready, it pushed... It was a challenge that could not be refused."

